

Walkability Report

Preliminary Results. July 2020



We are asking pedestrians like you to use social media and messaging platforms to share their experiences when they walk in Malta.

More than 50 pedestrians have already shared over 250 experiences, including a total of 358 observations about some elements and characteristics of the public space that they considered relevant. These are some of the main findings.

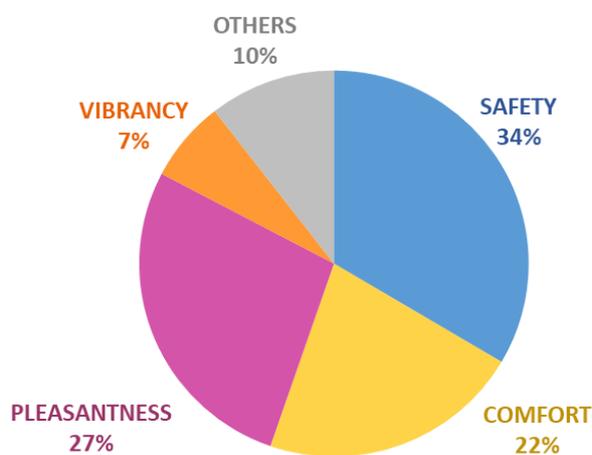


Figure 1. Percentage of pedestrian experiences (n=266)

The majority of the experiences are about **safety**. Participants also give importance to **pleasantness** and **comfort**, while **vibrancy** is the less commented one. Some use other terms, such as 'not friendly' or 'positive', which fall under the category **others** in this study.



Looking into **positive** and **negative** experiences, unsafe walks clearly outnumber the safe ones. Similarly, uncomfortable experiences are slightly more frequent than comfortable ones, while pleasant and unpleasant experiences are quite balanced. Vibrant experiences surpass the dull ones.

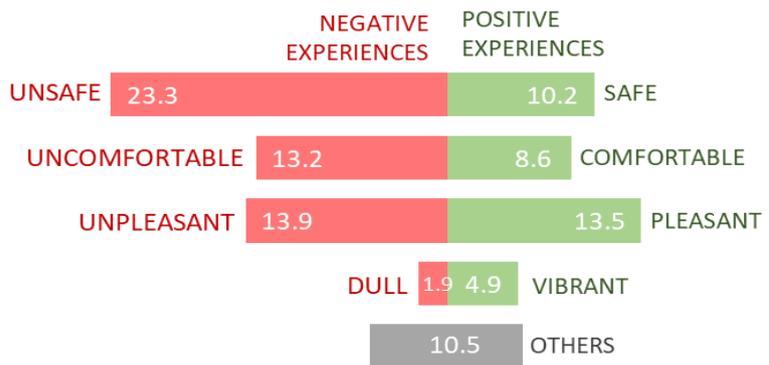


Figure 2. Percentage of pedestrian experiences, both positive and negative (n=266).



The most cited characteristic of the public space linked to walking experiences is pavement width. Pedestrians also highlight the absence of pavements and their surface.

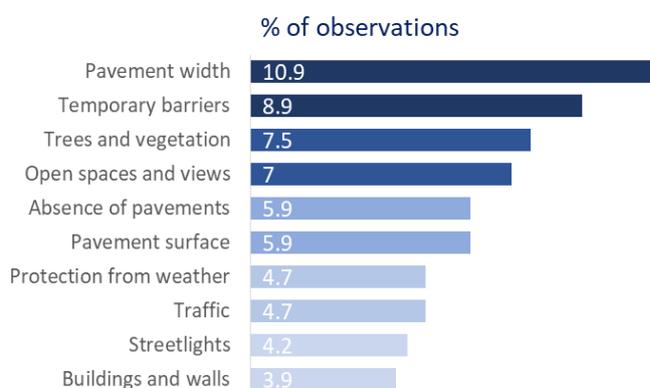


Figure 3. Percentage of the ten most cited elements and characteristics of the walkable environment (n=358).

The second most cited issue is temporary barriers, such as rubbish bags, cars parked on the pavement and construction hurdles. The presence of trees, open spaces and views are also much commented. Pedestrian often talk about streetlights and other street furniture that protects from extreme

weather, such as shade and drainage. Exposure to traffic is another common consideration. Finally, some experiences are linked to the buildings and walls alongside pavements.



As participants link their experiences to the public space where they walk, we can better understand how specific environmental elements and characteristics influence pedestrian mobility in Malta. Below you can see some bar graphs showing the five most cited determinants classified by experience, while the pie graphs show the percentage of positive/negative observations by experience.

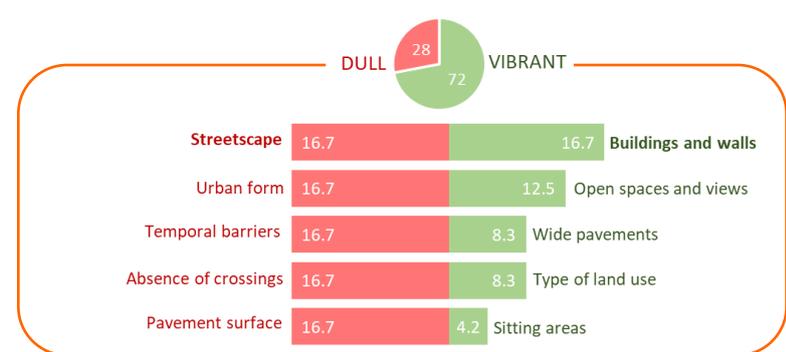
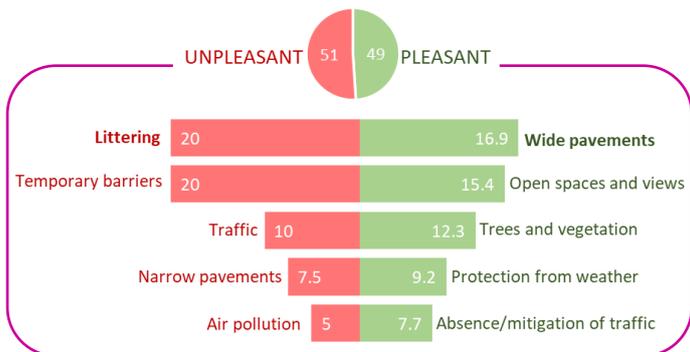
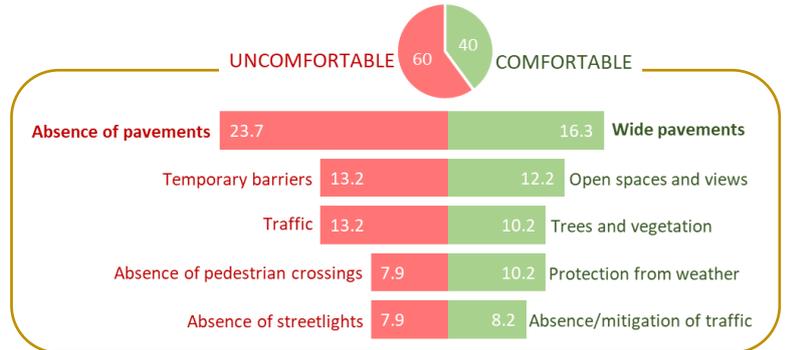
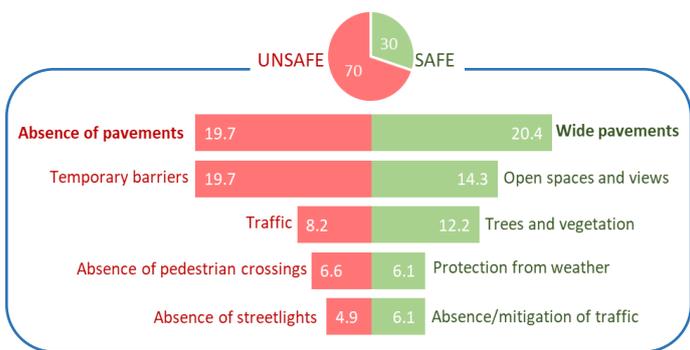


Figure 4. Percentage of most cited elements and characteristics of the walkable environment by experiences (n=358).

Absence of pavements is the most cited issue for unsafe and unpleasant experiences, while most unpleasant walks are linked to littering. Temporary barriers and traffic are also issues that are present in most negative experiences. On a positive side, wide pavements, open spaces and trees are the most relevant elements amongst positive experiences.

Since the walkable environment is a complex space and pedestrians can interact with it in many different ways, there is a growing list of elements and characteristics that participants are identifying as relevant. All the information received is categorised and presented in the next table

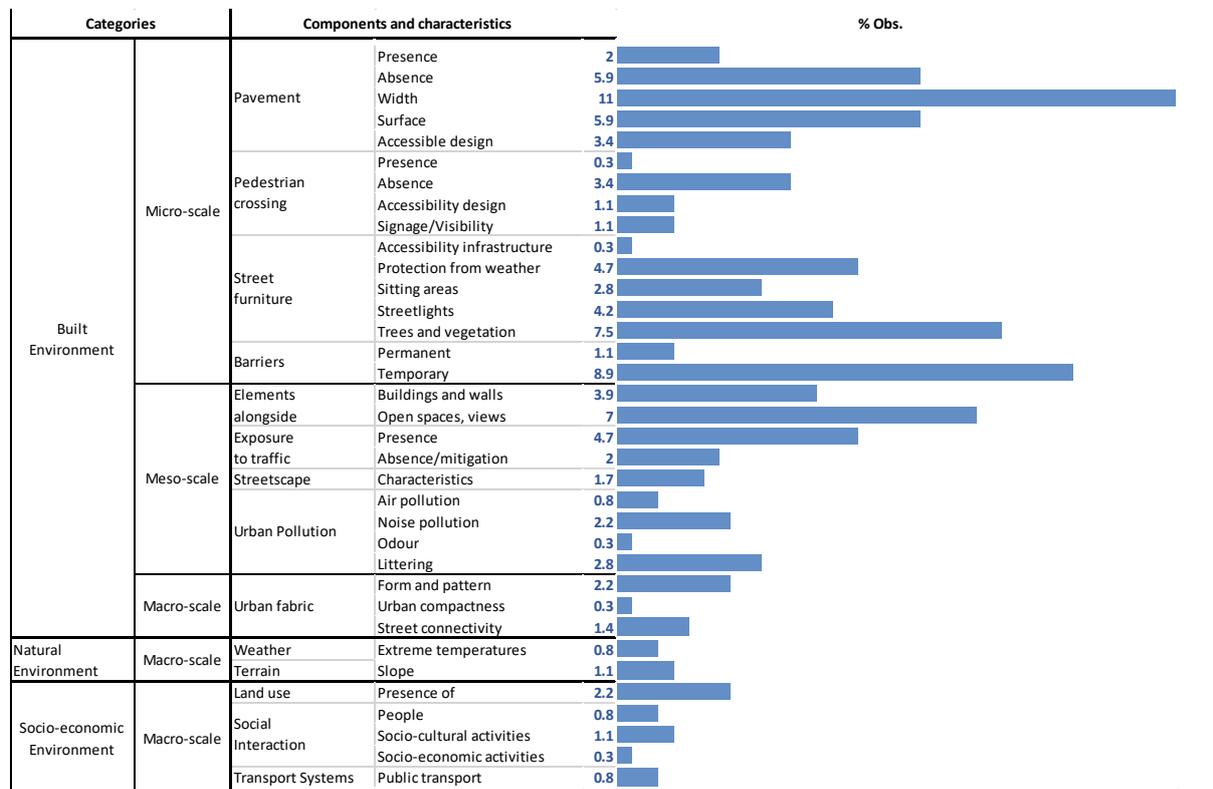


Figure 5. All the cited elements and characteristics of the walkable environment considered relevant by participants (n=358).



All these observations are being currently processed using a Perceived Walkability Index. This helps us to better understand the degree and spatial variation of walkability in Malta. You can see some preliminary results on our WalkingMalta Web Map. Explore the map and click on each point to get further information about what participants said about the place.

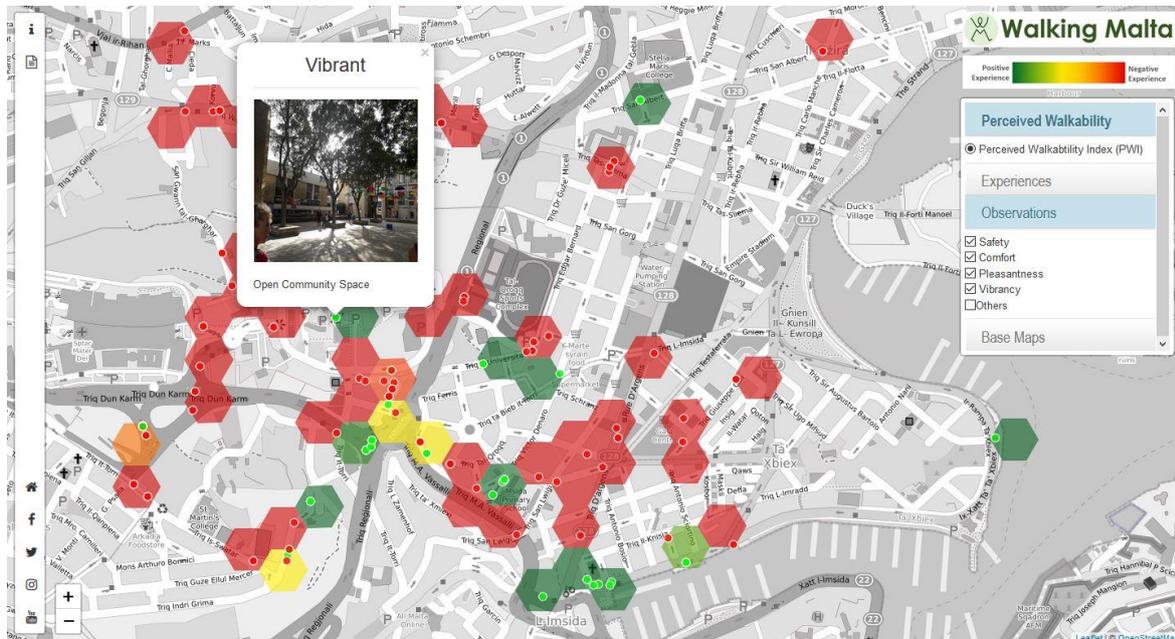
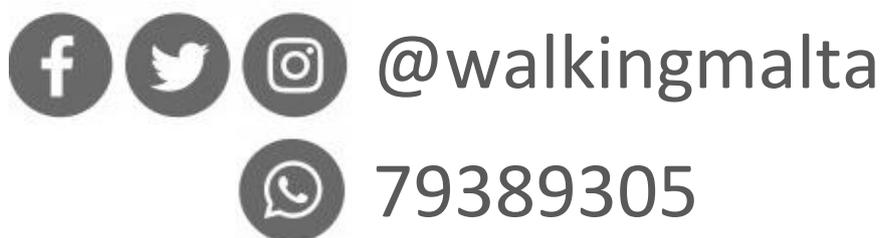


Figure 6. WalkingMalta interactive web map. Source www.walkingmalta.com/tabs/map

This participatory research relies on voluntary contributions from pedestrians like you. If you want to raise awareness about your pedestrian experiences and collaborate with an innovative research that may influence policy towards a more pedestrian-friendly Malta, please share your valuable knowledge with us through our social media and messaging platforms.



WalkingMalta is a project set in motion by an ongoing doctoral research conducted by Carlos Cañas at the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, University of Malta. For any queries please contact carlos.canas@um.edu.mt